

**The association of Streptococcus bovis/gallolyticus with colorectal tumors : the nature and the underlying mechanisms of its etiological role.**

**ABSTRACT**

Streptococcus bovis (*S. bovis*) bacteria are associated with colorectal cancer and adenoma. *S. bovis* is currently named *S. gallolyticus*. 25 to 80% of patients with *S. bovis/gallolyticus* bacteremia have concomitant colorectal tumors. Colonic neoplasia may arise years after the presentation of bacteremia or infectious endocarditis of *S. bovis/gallolyticus*. The presence of *S. bovis/gallolyticus* bacteremia and/or endocarditis is also related to the presence of villous or tubular-villous adenomas in the large intestine. In addition, serological relationship of *S. gallolyticus* with colorectal tumors and direct colonization of *S. gallolyticus* in tissues of colorectal tumors were found. However, this association is still under controversy and has long been underestimated. Moreover, the etiological versus non-etiological nature of this association is not settled yet. Therefore, by covering the most of up to date studies, this review attempts to clarify the nature and the core of *S. bovis/gallolyticus* association with colorectal tumors and analyze the possible underlying mechanisms.

**Keyword:** Streptococcus bovis/gallolyticus; Bacteremia; Colorectal tumors.